

The statistical section does contain a list of the Century partnerships the two made together, and there is in the last chapter a discussion about the better Australian opening combinations since they retired, but the evidence presented is limited to individual records and some of the Century partnerships. No attempt has been made to calculate an average partnership for the various contenders for the title of 'best opening pair', so that the reader is deprived of the knowledge that the mean Test opening stand of Woodfull and Ponsford (42.95) generally suffers in comparison with the other pairs discussed, namely (Brown and Fingleton (63.75), Morris and Barnes (54.23), McDonald and Burke (39.62), Lawry and Simpson (59.23), Lawry and Redpath (43.33), Stackpole and Redpath (44.47), Wood and Laird (42.77) and Boon and Marsh (46.78). Perhaps, on the other hand, the author did work this out, but declined to publish it!

Overall, the book is an interesting, accurate and readable account of the careers of two great Australian cricketers, gleaned on the whole from published sources rather than personal contact.

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Gary Lester, *THE STORY OF AUSTRALIAN RUGBY LEAGUE*, Lester-Townsend Publishing, Sydney, 1988 Illus. pp. 288. \$35

In the introduction to this large format, 'coffee-table' styled book, the author states that 'it was never the intention here to write a book purporting to be the complete history of the game. He is true to his Word.

Lester has produced an entertaining, readable account of events - over time - which took place, within the game of Rugby League. It is by no means a 'history' of the game in the academic sense. The book lacks the depth of research that serious students of the game may well have expected. The work relies on an extensive use of photographs, some of which have never before been seen in print. The text is presented as a light summary of events - a style which relies heavily upon anecdotes and contemporary newspaper reports.

Events from 1907 to 1914 are presented in detail and the Sydney Premiership Competition is referred to at length. However, the post-World War I period deals less with the Australian domestic scene and concentrates heavily upon International matches, although the establishment of Queensland, Country Rugby League and the other state Leagues is described in varying amounts of detail. Kangaroo, British and New Zealand tours form the main topics for description for the remainder of the 80 year 'history' of the game. Is this to infer that Australian Rugby League 'history' lies only within the framework of such events?

At the beginning of each chapter some mention is made of events which occurred outside Rugby League in the period under discussion, such as the coming of radio in the 1920s and later the beginning of television. The relationship of these events to the game and/or its 'history', however, is left in an historical limbo.

Written in true journalistic style, the book has no footnotes or references and no index. It offers only a limited bibliography in the acknowledgements at the back of the book. Several factual and typographical errors appear throughout the book. These do not,

however, seriously hamper the reader for whom the book was designed. A second edition, due for publication in the near future, may well remedy the errors.

Produced on behalf of the Australian Rugby League the book neither passes judgement upon nor challenges, the administrative decisions which combined to shape Rugby League over its 80 year existence. Unfortunately, the book rarely comments upon or analyses any of the events described as they took place in the game.

As a 'coffee-table' book, more to be looked at than used as a reference tool, this book certainly serves its designed purpose. As a tribute to those, as the author puts it, 'who dug the well' (p. 7), the book fulfills its intention - 'no less, no more' (p.7).

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J.A. Mangan and Roberta J. Park (eds)., *FROM FAIR SEX TO FEMINISM: SPORT AND THE SOCIALIZATION OF WOMEN IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND POST-INDUSTRIAL ERAS*, Frank Cass, London, 1987. Illus., index, pp.312, £22.50, £11.50 (paper)

From Fair Sex to Feminism aims to deepen 'the understanding of the place of women in the cultural heritage of modern society . . . [and] . . . this collection of essays therefore brings together the hitherto discrete perspectives of women's studies and the social history of sport drawing on research from Britain, North America and Australasia.' Editors J.A. Mangan and Roberta Park are renowned sport and physical education